

Application No.: 10/509,786
Amendment Dated: October 21, 2008
Reply to Office Action of: July 21, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A mail delivery device in-device for use with a system including the Internet for delivering mail, a-mail-the mail delivery device, connected to the Internet, for creating mail arrival notice to notify terminals of the arrival of said mail, a public network, connected to said mail delivery device, for relaying said mail arrival notice, and terminals, connected to said public network, for receiving said mail arrival notice, wherein:

said mail delivery device includes:

a mail receiving meansreceiver, connected to said Internet, for receiving said mail;

a mail storing meansstorer, connected to said mail receiver for storingstoring said received mail;

a mail transmitting meanstransmitter, connected to said public network, for transmitting said received mail received by said mail receiver to said terminals through said public network;

a user data storage meansstorer, provided separately from said mail storer, for storing data of a user of a transmission destination of said mail as user information;

a notice determination meansdeterminer, connected to said mail receiver and said user data storer, when storing of said mail terminates and mail information containing information about a transmission destination of said mail is inputted, for obtaining said user information from the user data storage meansstorer and

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determining whether to perform said mail arrival notice; timer-management-means for performing timer management;

a mail arrival notice meansnoticer, connected to said notice determiner, for creating mail arrival notice based on a determination result from said notice determiner and said mail information;

a transmission data storage-meansstorer, connected to said mail arrival noticer, for storing transmission data of said mail arrival notice; and

a timer manager, connected to said notice determiner and said mail arrival noticer, for performing timer management for action timing of said notice determiner and said mail arrival noticer;

a network connection-meansconnector, connected between said mail arrival noticer and said to-said-public network, for transmitting said mail arrival notice to said terminals;

said mail arrival notice-means-noticer include:

a mail arrival notice creation-meanscreator, connected to said notice determiner and said user data storer, for creating said mail arrival notice from said mail and said user information;

a notice transmission-meanstransmitter, connected to said mail arrival notice creator and said transmission data storer, for creating a transmission request of said mail arrival notice transmitted from said mail arrival notice creator and storing it in the transmission data storage-meansstorer;

a network connection control-meanscontroller, connected between said notice transmitter and said public network, for converting said transmission request into a format interpretable to said network connection-meansconnector;

a retransmission data-control-controller, connected to said notice transmitter and said timer manager, for storing-creating a retransmission request of said mail

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arrival notice, which is a next transmission request in the case of failure of said transmission request; and

data required to create a retransmission request, which is a next transmission request in the case of failure of said transmission request; retransmission control means for creating said retransmission request; and a retransmission data storer, connected to said retransmission controller, for storing retransmission data required to create a retransmission request, which is a next transmission request; and

a retransmission data deletion meansdeleter, connected to said notice transmitter and said retransmission data storer, for deleting said retransmission data within said retransmission data storage meansstorer according to the transmission request of said notice transmittertransmission means.:

said mail arrival notice meansnoticer, when mail arrival notice to said terminals fails, transmits said mail arrival notice again to said terminals after a predetermined time managed by said timer manager elapses, and when said mail arrival notice is successfully transmitted, deletes said mail arrival notice data from the device; and further,

said mail arrival notice meansnoticer, when receiving second mail for the same transmission destination as a transmissionthe transmission destination of first mail received previously by said mail receiving meansreceiver, temporarily stops transmission of a retransmission request for said first mail_and formerly performs transmission of a mail arrival notice for said second mail.

said retransmission data deleter, when the mail arrival notice for said second mail succeeds, deletes said retransmission data for the same terminal within said retransmission data storer; and

said mail arrival noticer, when the mail arrival notice for said second mail formerly performed after temporarily stopping transmission of said retransmission request fails, cancels the stopping of transmission of said retransmission request for said first mail and performs retransmission of a mail arrival notice for said first mail.

9.-12. (Cancelled).

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13. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein said mail arrival notice-meansnoticer, when mail arrival notice for said second mail succeeds after temporarily stopping transmission of said retransmission request, delete all retransmission data for the same transmission destination.

14. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein said mail arrival notice-meansnoticer, when receiving second mail for the same transmission destination as a transmission destination of first mail received previously by said mail receiving-meansreceiver, deletes retransmission data for said first mail stored in said retransmission data storage-meansstorer.

15. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein said mail arrival notice-meansnoticer, when mail arrival notice of said second mail fail, stores retransmission data for said second mail in said retransmission data storage-meansstorer.

16. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein said mail arrival notice-meansnoticer sets said number of retransmissions of mail arrival notice.

17. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein:

said mail arrival notice-meansnoticer includes a retransmission control table for storing correspondences between types of responses from said public network and next transmission processing methods;

said network connection control-meanscontroller sends a response of said public network to a transmission request of mail arrival notice created by said mail arrival notice creation-meanscreator to said notice transmission-meanstransmitter;

said notice transmission-meanstransmitter sends said response to said retransmission control-meanscontroller; said retransmission data storage meansstorer stores, from said response and said retransmission control table, information required to create a retransmission request, which is a next transmission request in the case of failure of the transmission request; and

| said retransmission control means controller creates said retransmission request.

18. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein, in the case where a terminal user has plural terminals of different types, said mail arrival notice means noticer registers information of the plural terminals of said user in said user data storage means stor er, and when mail arrives in the user, said mail arrival notice creation means creator assigns priorities to said plural terminals and creates mail arrival notice.

19. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 18, wherein, when assigning priorities to said plural terminals, said mail arrival notice creation means creator assigns transmission priorities to terminals of transmission destinations, based on one of mail contents, notice conditions, and terminal capabilities, or combinations of two or more of these items.

20. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 18, wherein said mail arrival notice means have noticer has data of a table of correspondences between phone numbers of said plural terminals and information about charges for communications with said terminals, and assigns priorities to said plural terminals, using the information about charges for communications with said terminals.

21. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 18, wherein said mail arrival notice means have noticer has data of a table of correspondences between carriers of phone numbers and phone numbers of transmission destinations, and communication charges, and, when assigning priorities to said plural terminals, assigns the highest priority to a terminal having the lowest communication charge.

22. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 18, wherein, said mail arrival notice means noticer, when said mail arrival notice is unsuccessfully transmitted, decides a terminal of a next transmission destination according to the transmission priorities of said terminals, and retransmits said mail arrival notice.

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23. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein, in the case where a terminal user has plural terminals of different types, said mail arrival notice ~~meansnoticer~~ registers information of the plural terminals of said user in said user data ~~storage-meansstore~~, and when mail arrives in the user, said mail arrival notice ~~creation-meanscreator~~ creates contents of mail arrival notice in a format suited for a terminal of a transmission destination, based on one of mail contents, notice conditions, and terminal capabilities, or combinations of two or more of these items.

24. (Original) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein, in the case where said terminals output a request to obtain containing the terminal capabilities of said terminals and notice conditions after receiving said mail arrival notice, the contents of said mail are created in a format suited for the transmission destination terminal, according to said terminal capabilities and said notice conditions.

25. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein, in the case where a terminal user has plural terminals of different types, information of the plural terminals of said user is registered in said user data ~~storage-meansstore~~, and for at least some of the terminals, terminal information of transfer destination and transfer instructions are registered, the mail arrival notice ~~meansnoticer~~ makes mail arrival notice to said some of the terminals, and transmits arriving mail to a terminal of transfer destination.

26. (Original) The mail delivery device according to claim 18, wherein, for at least some of plural terminals owned by a user, terminal information of transfer destination and transfer instructions are registered, and in the case where mail arrival is accompanied by mail arrival notice to said some of the terminals, arriving mail is transmitted to a terminal of transfer destination.

27. (Currently Amended) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein said terminals have a transfer instruction function, and after receiving mail arrival notice, transmit transfer instructions and terminal information of transfer destination to the mail arrival notice ~~meansnoticer~~, and upon receipt of the transfer

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| instructions, the mail arrival notice ~~meansnoticer~~ transmits arriving mail to a terminal of transfer destination.

28.-29. (Cancelled).

30. (New) The mail delivery device according to claim 8, wherein, in the case where said terminals output a request to obtain mail text without containing the terminal capabilities of said terminals and notice conditions after receiving said mail arrival notice, the mail transmitter, in response to the mail text acquisition request, obtains mail from the mail storer, obtains information of the terminal from the user data storer, and converts mail contents according to information thereof.